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The Mobility Allowance, at present payable to disabled people between the ages of five and fifty, will be increased from £5 to £7 a week from November 1977. The benefit is now being paid to more than 43,000 people and by the end of 1979 everyone up to pension age who is unable or virtually unable to walk will be covered by the scheme.

Announcing the increases the Secretary of State said that the essential principle of the Mobility Allowance scheme was that help should go to those who could not walk, not just to those who were able to drive. He repeated the Government's aim which was to ensure that no one who was now mobile was immobilised by the phasing out of invalid vehicles. He said people must realise that a vehicle scheme would have been extremely costly and could only be afforded if the Government continued to refuse help with mobility for those unable to drive. Such a refusal could not be justified.

Postscript: We have now heard that the upper age limit is to be extended to fifty-three. People who were born on or after 25 August 1923 may now claim, and payment of the allowance will start on 24 August 1977.



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